ACQUIRED SURGICAL LESIONS OF THE ESOPHAGUS—Clifford F. Storey, M.D. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 1962. 365 pages, $19.00.

This is another monograph in the Charles C. Thomas series. The purpose of the book was to enlighten physicians generally about disorders of the esophagus which are now amenable to satisfactory treatment, surgical and otherwise. It is designed to contribute to an earlier and more accurate diagnosis of esophageal disease, and point out the available methods of therapy in dealing with these disorders.

The subjects covered include achalasia, esophageal diverticula, hiatus hernia, reflex esophagitis, ulcers and strictures of the esophagus, foreign bodies of the esophagus, perforations, spontaneous and traumatic, and acquired esophageal tracheobronchial fistula, as well as a discussion of tumors, cysts and carcinomas of the esophagus. Esophageal varices are also discussed adequately, including the available forms of therapy.

On the whole, the book is an excellent review of these acquired surgical lesions of the esophagus. It is well illustrated, the reference lists are complete and adequate. One need hardly refer to the references, for the general material contained within the book is adequate for all practical purposes. I was a little disappointed in the illustrations of surgical techniques, but the illustrations are very simply done and are diagrammatic rather than elaborate. They are helpful but would not be sufficient to permit the uninformed surgeon to completely orient himself with respect to the operative procedure under discussion. The x-rays and illustrations are adequate and informative.

This book can be recommended as a concise, informative and well-written book on acquired surgical lesions of the esophagus.

VICTOR RICHARDS, M.D.

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SHOCK—PATHOGENESIS AND THERAPY—An International Symposium sponsored in Stockholm, 27th-30th June, 1961, by CIBA. U. S. von Euler, Stockholm, Chairman; edited by K. D. Bock, Basle. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Gottingen, Heidelberg, 1962. Copies are available from Academic Press in New York City at $13.00 each.

The four-day symposium of 41 participants from 14 countries was planned by von Euler. It included 31 papers, which were followed by enthusiastic discussions. Together, these reports present an extensive review of current research on problems of shock. The index is comprehensive. Extensive bibliographies omit the titles of references cited. Important contributions include papers on metabolism during shock by Mingone, irreversible shock in dogs by R. Lillihei, classification of hypotensive states by Rushmer, kidney function in shock by Kramer and by Selkurt, neural factors by Neil, and the problems of experimental design by Fine. A prospectus for future bedside research is presented (p. 269). A short section devoted to research on therapy includes discussion of hypothermia, of fluid therapy, and of drug therapy.

Rational therapy of the hypotensive state demands concise definition of etiology and of the resulting chemical and physiologic changes. Approximately eleven pathogenic mechanisms are distinguishable, and shock in turn may lead to diverse terminal events. The common experimental models are hemorrhagic shock and endotoxin shock. A major research objective is to describe the mechanisms of irreversible shock.

Modern methods of measurement and control of blood volume are replacing inadequate estimation techniques based on the hematocrit and clinical signs, but do not obviate the need for experienced judgment by the physician. Vasoconstrictor drugs commonly prescribed may sometimes be contraindicated, since excessive vasoconstriction can alone induce shock, and milder adrenergic vasoconstriction may accentuate development of traumatic or endotoxin shock. Drug blockade of adrenergic vasoconstriction may be beneficial in certain patients responding poorly to volume replacement.

This scholarly symposium report is a valuable sourcebook for experimental surgeons and clinical investigators, and provides stimulating new views for cardiologist and surgeon.

ALFRED W. CHILDS, M.D.

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ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Third Edition—E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Director, Institute for Cardiopulmonary Diseases, Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, La Jolla, California; Paul Schlesinger, M.D., Chief, Outpatient Department of Cardiology, Fifth Medical Clinic, University of Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; and Rafael L. Luna, M.D., Cardiologist, Hospital Do Servidor Da Guanabara, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. Distributor, The Corinth Press, Box 51, Mission, Kansas, 1961. 196 pages, $6.00 per copy.

This monograph, a third edition by Dr. E. Gray Dimond, an outstanding teacher of electrocardiography, is a well written and bold attempt to take the uninformed student or practicing physician from a beginner's level to an understanding of spatial electrocardiography and vectorcardiography. He and his co-authors are clear, concise and direct in their endeavor to develop a critical analysis of clinical problems by means of these laboratory techniques.

The first section of 59 pages deals with the basic physiology of vectors, leads and spatial analysis. Without presenting new or startling concepts, the authors develop succinctly vector analysis; their text clearly reflects their experience in participative teaching. The presentation of vector loops by means of the cube system should not incur disfavor from workers who advocate the Frank or other vector systems.

The second section of 27 pages discusses electrocardiographic and vectorcardiographic alterations secondary to ischemia, injury, necrosis, hypertrophy and block. Because two of the authors are champions of the Mexican school of electrocardiography, this section is slanted towards the concept of systolic and diastolic overloading of the right and left ventricles. Although this postulate is not universally accepted, it is an attractive way of trying to correlate clinical with physiological data.

Section III, consisting of 54 pages, offers a series of 27 actual electrocardiograms and vectorcardiograms with detailed analyses. Here is the meat of their work, offering a unique opportunity to solve clinical problems. If there is a chief criticism of the book, it is that the illustrations should have been placed such that no reference would have been necessary to a text on the back side of the illustrated pages. One suspects that problems of cost prevented illustrations and text being on single or adjoining pages, which would have maintained more effective teaching and learning.

The final section of 43 pages is an alphabetical glossary which defines more than 200 terms ranging from aberrant conduction to the Wenckebach's-Lucciani phenomenon. Pertinent bibliography is incorporated in the text.

Although several of the electrocardiographic reproductions could be enlarged for purposes of clarity, the vectorcardiographic reproductions are quite satisfactory, and are enhanced by the simultaneous illustration of body contour diagrams with the vector loops.

This book throws light on a difficult problem, making it valuable reading for the undergraduate or post-doctoral student or physician who is not reading electrocardiograms or vectocardiogams, as well as for those who are.

HILLIARD J. KATZ, M.D.